

LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED PAYMENTS

a monthly profile

Note: The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces the official unemployment statistics. The figures contained in this publication are different from the ABS unemployment figures as the ABS and the Department Social Services (DSS) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

This publication can be found at <http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp>

December 2013

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, **29 January 2014**

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1
Statistical Highlights	2
Tables	
1. Labour Market Payments - Time Series	3
2. Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the job seeker population	4
3. Youth Allowees (other) - Derivation of the job seeker population	5
4. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) - Time Series	6
5. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by State	7
6. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Age and Sex	8
7. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Service Zone and Service Centre	9
8. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Fortnightly Earnings and Sex	23
Explanatory Notes	24
Glossary	30
Appendix	33
For More Information	36

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistical information on a monthly basis for the various types of labour market payments delivered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of the Department of Social Services (DSS). This publication was produced previously by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

This publication covers Newstart (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) in some detail, and to a lesser extent, Partner Allowance (PA), Widow Allowance (WA), Youth Allowance (Full Time Student)(YA(FTS)) and Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) (YA(a)).

Table 1 provides information on the total number of NSA and YA recipients. The YA population is broken down into YA(o), YA(FTS) and YA(Australian Apprentices) categories. The total numbers of PA and WA recipients are also provided in this table.

Tables 2 and 3 show the derivation of the NSA and YA(o) job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the 'Comparability of data' section of the Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers.

Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker population.

When using time series figures, it is important to note that changes have occurred over time to the conditions of eligibility for different payments. Details of these changes are provided in the Explanatory Notes.

All media inquiries should be directed to the DSS Media Team on (02) 6146 3242. For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 26 February 2014.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – December 2013

Between December 2012 and December 2013

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 18.1 per cent** overall from 700 133 to 827 039.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased 19.5 per cent from 595 248 to 711 438.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients increased 10.2 per cent from 104 885 to 115 601.

The number of job seekers **increased 16.3 per cent** overall from 349 782 to 406 703.

- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 15.6 per cent from 303 000 to 350 132.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 20.9 per cent from 46 782 to 56 571.

Long-term job seekers increased 22.9 per cent from 196 080 to 241 054.

Short-term job seekers increased 7.8 per cent from 153 702 to 165 649.

NOTE: There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

For comparisons between DSS unemployment labour market payment numbers and ABS labour force unemployment statistics, see Appendix.

Figure 1: Line Graph – Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) time series

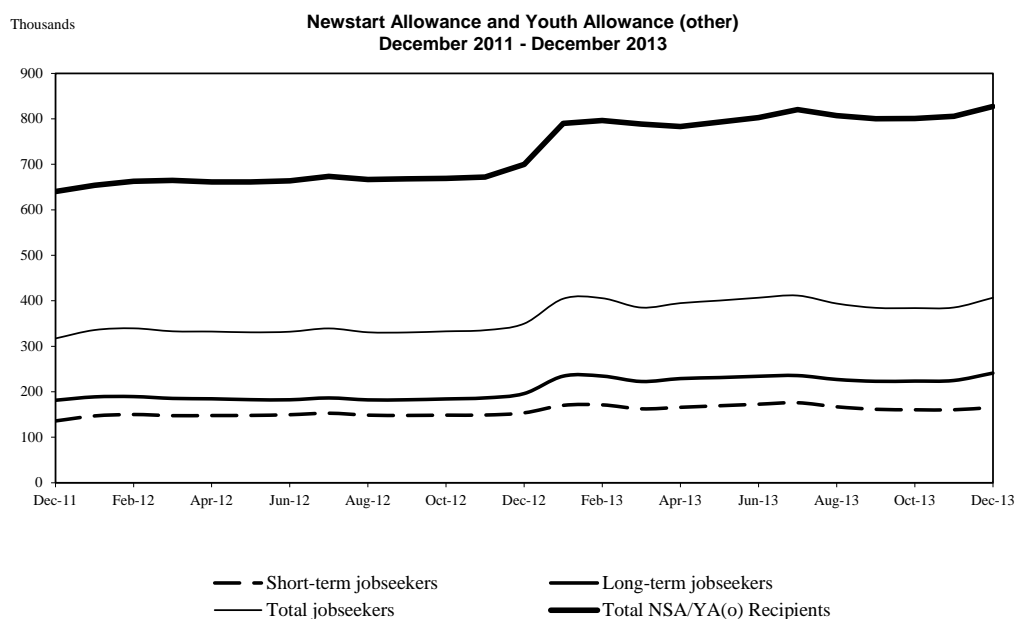


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796
December 2011	342,119	552,983	87,305	269,552	4,256	16,426	30,618
January 2012	346,578	566,287	87,617	241,565	4,110	16,129	30,564
February 2012	348,940	574,458	88,284	246,450	4,214	15,753	30,351
March 2012	351,092	578,219	86,583	262,183	4,495	15,279	30,029
April 2012	350,547	576,620	84,654	271,071	4,637	14,878	29,752
May 2012	350,294	577,483	83,553	273,335	4,786	14,519	29,565
June 2012	351,477	580,807	82,955	270,959	4,900	14,137	29,342
July 2012	354,823	586,745	86,889	262,157	5,012	13,742	29,031
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
Variation November 2013 - December 2013							
Number	7,871	9,798	11,843	-34,592	-17	-45	220
Per cent	1.7	1.4	11.4	-15.7	-0.3	-0.5	0.8

Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

TABLE 2 - NEWSTART ALLOWEES - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	December 2013			November 2013	Variation November - December	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	243,362	152,235	91,127	241,435	1,927	0.8
CPS Recipients (a)	673	490	183	592	81	13.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	14,369	8,374	5,995	13,945	424	3.0
Received a payment	228,320	143,371	84,949	226,898	1,422	0.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,451	2,029	5,422	7,378	73	1.0
Other activities without job search (d)	36,624	21,787	14,837	37,984	-1,360	-3.6
Incapacitated (e)	26,213	15,148	11,065	25,444	769	3.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	14,747	8,370	6,377	14,867	-120	-0.8
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	143,285	96,037	47,248	141,225	2,060	1.5
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>30,804</i>	<i>17,864</i>	<i>12,940</i>	<i>34,326</i>	<i>-3,522</i>	<i>-10.3</i>
Long Term Newstart Allowees	468,076	223,755	244,321	460,205	7,871	1.7
CPS Recipients (a)	1,778	1,164	614	1,805	-27	-1.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	17,333	7,218	10,115	17,029	304	1.8
Received a payment	448,965	215,373	233,592	441,371	7,594	1.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	52,842	11,332	41,510	52,775	67	0.1
Other activities without job search (d)	106,437	49,117	57,320	109,405	-2,968	-2.7
Incapacitated (e)	43,144	20,705	22,439	42,400	744	1.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	39,695	17,653	22,042	39,356	339	0.9
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	206,847	116,566	90,281	197,435	9,412	4.8
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>131,628</i>	<i>66,493</i>	<i>65,135</i>	<i>139,364</i>	<i>-7,736</i>	<i>-5.6</i>
All Newstart Allowees	711,438	375,990	335,448	701,640	9,798	1.4
CPS Recipients (a)	2,451	1,654	797	2,397	54	2.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	31,702	15,592	16,110	30,974	728	2.4
Received a payment	677,285	358,744	318,541	668,269	9,016	1.3
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	60,293	13,361	46,932	60,153	140	0.2
Other activities without job search (d)	143,061	70,904	72,157	147,389	-4,328	-2.9
Incapacitated (e)	69,357	35,853	33,504	67,844	1,513	2.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	54,442	26,023	28,419	54,223	219	0.4
All NSA job seekers (g)	350,132	212,603	137,529	338,660	11,472	3.4
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>162,432</i>	<i>84,357</i>	<i>78,075</i>	<i>173,690</i>	<i>-11,258</i>	<i>-6.5</i>

(a) Allowees eligible for NSA who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

(b) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

(c) Allowees who are not required to seek work because they are undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.

(d) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(f) Includes allowees who are known not to have participation requirements and allowees participating in Disability Management Services.

(g) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(h) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

– Long-term allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.

– There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

TABLE 3 - YOUTH ALLOWEES (OTHER) - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	December 2013			November 2013	Variation November - December	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Youth Allowees	47,453	26,438	21,015	43,844	3,609	8.2
CPS Recipients (a)	26	23	3	28	-2	-7.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,120	553	567	1,040	80	7.7
Received a payment	46,307	25,862	20,445	42,776	3,531	8.3
Other activities without job search (c)	19,664	11,577	8,087	19,418	246	1.3
Incapacitated (d)	2,251	1,118	1,133	2,189	62	2.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,028	946	1,082	1,970	58	2.9
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	22,364	12,221	10,143	19,199	3,165	16.5
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>12,207</i>	<i>6,854</i>	<i>5,353</i>	<i>13,191</i>	<i>-984</i>	<i>-7.5</i>
Long Term Youth Allowees	68,148	34,914	33,234	59,914	8,234	13.7
CPS Recipients (a)	33	25	8	38	-5	-13.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,662	713	949	1,463	199	13.6
Received a payment	66,453	34,176	32,277	58,413	8,040	13.8
Other activities without job search (c)	26,700	14,272	12,428	25,655	1,045	4.1
Incapacitated (d)	2,809	1,264	1,545	2,684	125	4.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,737	1,132	1,605	2,697	40	1.5
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	34,207	17,508	16,699	27,377	6,830	24.9
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>23,163</i>	<i>11,799</i>	<i>11,364</i>	<i>24,321</i>	<i>-1,158</i>	<i>-4.8</i>
All Youth Allowees	115,601	61,352	54,249	103,758	11,843	11.4
CPS Recipients (a)	59	48	11	66	-7	-10.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,782	1,266	1,516	2,503	279	11.1
Received a payment	112,760	60,038	52,722	101,189	11,571	11.4
Other activities without job search (c)	46,364	25,849	20,515	45,073	1,291	2.9
Incapacitated (d)	5,060	2,382	2,678	4,873	187	3.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,765	2,078	2,687	4,667	98	2.1
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	56,571	29,729	26,842	46,576	9,995	21.5
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>35,370</i>	<i>18,653</i>	<i>16,717</i>	<i>37,512</i>	<i>-2,142</i>	<i>-5.7</i>

(a) Allowees eligible for YA (other) who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

(b) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

(c) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(e) Includes allowees who are known not to have participation requirements and allowees participating in Disability Management Services.

(f) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(g) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

– Long-term allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.

– There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

**TABLE 4 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) TIME SERIES**

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
December 2011	135,882	181,357	317,239
January 2012	146,931	188,773	335,704
February 2012	150,028	189,447	339,475
March 2012	147,524	185,409	332,933
April 2012	147,809	184,581	332,390
May 2012	148,032	182,654	330,686
June 2012	149,587	182,435	332,022
July 2012	152,845	186,422	339,267
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
Variation November 2013 - December 2013			
Number	5225	16242	21467
Per cent	3.3	7.2	5.6

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes).

TABLE 5 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY STATE

<i>State</i>	November	December	Variation	
	2013	2013	Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	46,819	48,448	1,629	3.5
Victoria	40,490	41,392	902	2.2
Queensland	37,723	39,562	1,839	4.9
South Australia	11,513	11,817	304	2.6
Western Australia	15,820	16,093	273	1.7
Tasmania	4,311	4,398	87	2.0
Northern Territory	2,193	2,307	114	5.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,555	1,624	69	4.4
AUSTRALIA	160,424	165,649	5,225	3.3
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	69,981	75,220	5,239	7.5
Victoria	52,467	56,496	4,029	7.7
Queensland	49,905	53,071	3,166	6.3
South Australia	20,180	21,534	1,354	6.7
Western Australia	18,155	19,443	1,288	7.1
Tasmania	8,573	9,117	544	6.3
Northern Territory	3,871	4,316	445	11.5
Australian Capital Territory	1,680	1,853	173	10.3
AUSTRALIA	224,812	241,054	16,242	7.2
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	116,800	123,668	6,868	5.9
Victoria	92,957	97,888	4,931	5.3
Queensland	87,628	92,633	5,005	5.7
South Australia	31,693	33,351	1,658	5.2
Western Australia	33,975	35,536	1,561	4.6
Tasmania	12,884	13,515	631	4.9
Northern Territory	6,064	6,623	559	9.2
Australian Capital Territory	3,235	3,477	242	7.5
AUSTRALIA	385,236	406,703	21,467	5.6

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

TABLE 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY AGE AND SEX, AS AT DECEMBER 2013

<i>Age</i>	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	1,613	1.5	394	0.3	2,007	0.8
18 - 20 years	8,071	7.5	12,870	9.6	20,941	8.6
21 - 24 years	16,470	15.2	20,674	15.4	37,144	15.3
25 - 29 years	17,883	16.5	20,510	15.3	38,393	15.8
30 - 39 years	26,024	24.0	30,654	22.9	56,678	23.4
40 - 49 years	19,948	18.4	24,954	18.6	44,902	18.5
50 - 59 years	13,365	12.3	17,775	13.3	31,140	12.9
60 years and over	4,877	4.5	6,238	4.7	11,115	4.6
Total	108,251	100.0	134,069	100.0	242,320	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	1,639	2.9	478	0.4	2,117	1.3
18 - 20 years	6,756	11.8	12,314	11.5	19,070	11.6
21 - 24 years	9,404	16.4	14,691	13.7	24,095	14.7
25 - 29 years	7,302	12.7	10,498	9.8	17,800	10.8
30 - 39 years	9,236	16.1	20,712	19.4	29,948	18.2
40 - 49 years	11,021	19.2	27,324	25.5	38,345	23.3
50 - 59 years	9,208	16.0	17,322	16.2	26,530	16.1
60 years and over	2,832	4.9	3,646	3.4	6,478	3.9
Total	57,398	100.0	106,985	100.0	164,383	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	3,252	2.0	872	0.4	4,124	1.0
18 - 20 years	14,827	9.0	25,184	10.4	40,011	9.8
21 - 24 years	25,874	15.6	35,365	14.7	61,239	15.1
25 - 29 years	25,185	15.2	31,008	12.9	56,193	13.8
30 - 39 years	35,260	21.3	51,366	21.3	86,626	21.3
40 - 49 years	30,969	18.7	52,278	21.7	83,247	20.5
50 - 59 years	22,573	13.6	35,097	14.6	57,670	14.2
60 years and over	7,709	4.7	9,884	4.1	17,593	4.3
Total	165,649	100.0	241,054	100.0	406,703	100.0

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY</i>				
AS1 Community Team	21	26	%	%
Bankstown	3,455	3,626	171	4.9
Bondi Junction	1,123	1,183	60	5.3
Burwood	1,632	1,763	131	8.0
Campsie	2,406	2,484	78	3.2
Caringbah	882	937	55	6.2
Chatswood	1,222	1,301	79	6.5
Darlinghurst	1,588	1,628	40	2.5
Hornsby	1,089	1,165	76	7.0
Hurstville	1,571	1,649	78	5.0
Leichhardt	1,320	1,419	99	7.5
Maroubra	1,461	1,539	78	5.3
Marrickville	1,383	1,455	72	5.2
Northern Beaches	1,254	1,291	37	3.0
Redfern	1,333	1,361	28	2.1
Rockdale	1,408	1,517	109	7.7
Ryde	1,159	1,218	59	5.1
Sutherland	821	858	37	4.5
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	25,128	26,420	1,292	5.1
<i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	2,226	2,352	126	5.7
Baulkham Hills	945	1,016	71	7.5
Blacktown	2,980	3,178	198	6.6
Cabramatta	2,386	2,463	77	3.2
Camden	671	714	43	6.4
Campbelltown	2,085	2,153	68	3.3
Fairfield	2,807	2,986	179	6.4
Hawkesbury	889	938	49	5.5
Ingleburn	1,257	1,317	60	4.8
Katoomba	584	654	70	12.0
Lithgow	631	640	9	1.4
Liverpool	3,452	3,695	243	7.0
Merrylands	2,136	2,303	167	7.8
Mt Druitt	2,269	2,368	99	4.4
Parramatta	2,358	2,510	152	6.4
Penrith	1,821	1,954	133	7.3
Springwood	392	410	18	4.6
St Marys	1,516	1,574	58	3.8
Other (a)	0	1	%	%
Total	31,405	33,226	1,821	5.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Armidale	902	973	71	7.9
Ballina	958	1,047	89	9.3
Bourke	269	303	34	12.6
Brunswick Heads	869	914	45	5.2
Byron Bay	455	490	35	7.7
Casino	606	649	43	7.1
Coffs Harbour	1,918	2,077	159	8.3
Forster	799	839	40	5.0
Glen Innes	326	350	24	7.4
Grafton	803	867	64	8.0
Gunnedah	421	456	35	8.3
Inverell	604	671	67	11.1
Kempsey	871	888	17	2.0
Lightning Ridge	175	189	14	8.0
Lismore	1,593	1,695	102	6.4
Moree	424	481	57	13.4
Murwillumbah	685	732	47	6.9
Nambucca Heads	738	767	29	3.9
Narrabri	342	351	9	2.6
Port Macquarie	1,651	1,786	135	8.2
Tamworth	1,689	1,800	111	6.6
Taree	1,534	1,638	104	6.8
Tweed Heads	1,673	1,707	34	2.0
Walgett	198	228	30	15.2
Yamba	458	495	37	8.1
Other (a)	3	3	%	%
Total	20,964	22,396	1,432	6.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>MID NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bathurst	708	785	77	10.9
Cessnock	752	797	45	6.0
Charlestown	1,801	1,910	109	6.1
Comm Support Team	32	32	%	%
Dubbo	1,887	2,003	116	6.1
Ettalong	763	800	37	4.8
Gosford	1,645	1,770	125	7.6
King Street	1,178	1,247	69	5.9
Kurri Kurri	499	500	1	0.2
Lakehaven	1,669	1,751	82	4.9
Maitland	1,426	1,507	81	5.7
Mayfield	1,002	1,110	108	10.8
Mudgee	559	591	32	5.7
Muswellbrook	563	592	29	5.2
Nelson Bay	515	525	10	1.9
Orange	833	845	12	1.4
Parkes	708	740	32	4.5
Raymond Terrace	849	913	64	7.5
Singleton	321	337	16	5.0
The Entrance	1,218	1,275	57	4.7
Toronto	902	978	76	8.4
Wallsend	1,373	1,471	98	7.1
Woy Woy	534	566	32	6.0
Wyang	673	710	37	5.5
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
Total	22,410	23,755	1,345	6.0

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	711	746	35	4.9
Bega	683	711	28	4.1
Belconnen	976	1,035	59	6.0
Bowral	460	507	47	10.2
Braddon	755	815	60	7.9
Cooma	351	359	8	2.3
Corrimal	1,074	1,167	93	8.7
Cowra	418	443	25	6.0
Dapto	1,122	1,194	72	6.4
Goulburn	722	742	20	2.8
Griffith	497	513	16	3.2
Gungahlin	297	324	27	9.1
Leeton	359	381	22	6.1
Narooma	277	291	14	5.1
Nowra	1,692	1,745	53	3.1
Queanbeyan	507	544	37	7.3
Shellharbour	1,350	1,426	76	5.6
Tuggeranong	712	762	50	7.0
Tumut	247	277	30	12.1
Ulladulla	475	505	30	6.3
Wagga	1,117	1,164	47	4.2
Woden	457	507	50	10.9
Wollongong	1,343	1,494	151	11.2
Yass	86	83	%	%
Young	479	537	58	12.1
Other (a)	3	1	%	%
Total	17,170	18,273	1,103	6.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	1,167	1,263	96	8.2
Albury	2,397	2,501	104	4.3
Box Hill	2,203	2,306	103	4.7
Broadmeadows	3,763	3,992	229	6.1
Darebin	2,516	2,745	229	9.1
Deniliquin	243	254	11	4.5
Echuca	538	551	13	2.4
Epping	2,739	2,899	160	5.8
Greensborough	1,658	1,750	92	5.5
Heidelberg	1,314	1,363	49	3.7
Moreland	2,647	2,807	160	6.0
Newmarket	1,546	1,623	77	5.0
Seymour	666	716	50	7.5
Shepparton	2,012	2,171	159	7.9
Sth Melbourne	909	979	70	7.7
Sunbury	895	954	59	6.6
Wangaratta	1,342	1,327	-15	-1.1
Windsor Vic	2,448	2,610	162	6.6
Yarra	2,174	2,351	177	8.1
Other (a)	11	8	%	%
Total	33,188	35,170	1,982	6.0

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	956	1,017	61	6.4
Belgrave	484	513	29	6.0
Boronia	1,140	1,179	39	3.4
Cheltenham	1,719	1,847	128	7.4
Cranbourne	1,633	1,752	119	7.3
Dandenong	2,845	2,941	96	3.4
Fountain Gate	2,297	2,393	96	4.2
Frankston	2,586	2,657	71	2.7
Glen Waverley	1,082	1,121	39	3.6
Hastings	651	679	28	4.3
Lilydale	1,364	1,397	33	2.4
Mornington	535	570	35	6.5
Morwell	2,529	2,611	82	3.2
Oakleigh	1,568	1,699	131	8.4
Pakenham	997	1,072	75	7.5
Ringwood	1,733	1,852	119	6.9
Rosebud	801	800	-1	-0.1
Rowville	653	667	14	2.1
Sale	729	778	49	6.7
Springvale	1,981	2,020	39	2.0
Warragul	709	727	18	2.5
Wonthaggi	886	931	45	5.1
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
Total	29,878	31,223	1,345	4.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	218	235	17	7.8
Ballarat	2,761	3,026	265	9.6
Bendigo	2,483	2,702	219	8.8
Colac	569	602	33	5.8
Corio	1,668	1,757	89	5.3
Footscray	1,475	1,577	102	6.9
Geelong	3,282	3,463	181	5.5
Hamilton	364	381	17	4.7
Horsham	677	696	19	2.8
Maryborough	433	466	33	7.6
Melton	1,843	1,950	107	5.8
Mildura	1,739	1,785	46	2.6
Newport	1,045	1,088	43	4.1
Portland	392	419	27	6.9
Stawell	176	173	-3	-1.7
Sunshine	3,563	3,675	112	3.1
Swan Hill	726	710	-16	-2.2
Warrnambool	853	917	64	7.5
Watergardens	3,610	3,731	121	3.4
Werribee	4,067	4,240	173	4.3
Other (a)	3	4	%	%
Total	31,947	33,597	1,650	5.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	846	902	56	6.6
Ayr	345	383	38	11.0
Biloela	194	196	2	1.0
Bowen	397	436	39	9.8
Cairns Aplin	4,788	5,088	300	6.3
Charters Towers	377	419	42	11.1
Emerald	359	378	19	5.3
Gladstone	811	878	67	8.3
Indigenous Service Centre	837	1,033	196	23.4
Ingham	359	414	55	15.3
Innisfail	853	895	42	4.9
Longreach	130	142	12	9.2
Mackay	1,638	1,763	125	7.6
Mareeba	768	800	32	4.2
Mossman	598	612	14	2.3
Mt Isa	687	704	17	2.5
Normanton	67	71	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	103	117	14	13.6
Palm Island	59	52	%	%
Rockhampton	1,914	2,023	109	5.7
Thursday Is	104	139	35	33.7
Townsville	4,034	4,256	222	5.5
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	332	315	-17	-5.1
Whitsunday	580	600	20	3.4
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	447	451	4	0.9
Yeppoon	448	489	41	9.2
Other (a)	37	40	%	%
Total	22,112	23,596	1,484	6.7

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	3,036	3,183	147	4.8
Caboolture	3,400	3,547	147	4.3
Caloundra	1,450	1,540	90	6.2
Cherbourg	219	225	6	2.7
Chermside	1,213	1,307	94	7.7
Deception Bay	2,255	2,270	15	0.7
Fortitude Valley	1,281	1,331	50	3.9
Gympie	1,428	1,507	79	5.5
Hervey Bay	1,607	1,732	125	7.8
Kawana Waters	699	764	65	9.3
Kingaroy	728	788	60	8.2
Margate	96	153	%	%
Maroochydore	1,539	1,636	97	6.3
Maryborough	1,234	1,310	76	6.2
Mitchelton	1,504	1,584	80	5.3
Mt Gravatt	2,254	2,418	164	7.3
Nambour	1,080	1,118	38	3.5
Noosa	1,205	1,257	52	4.3
Nundah	1,568	1,595	27	1.7
South Brisbane	1,066	1,180	114	10.7
Stones Corner	1,884	2,014	130	6.9
Strathpine	1,875	1,981	106	5.7
Toowong	1,366	1,509	143	10.5
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	33,987	35,949	1,962	5.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beaudesert	617	644	27	4.4
Beenleigh	2,315	2,372	57	2.5
Biggera Waters	3,251	3,425	174	5.4
Browns Plains	1,991	2,125	134	6.7
Capalaba	837	890	53	6.3
Charleville	157	174	17	10.8
Cleveland	990	1,062	72	7.3
Dalby	406	424	18	4.4
Goodna	1,611	1,728	117	7.3
Goondiwindi	326	341	15	4.6
Inala	1,903	2,016	113	5.9
Ipswich	3,091	3,215	124	4.0
Nerang	3,816	4,022	206	5.4
Palm Beach	4,169	4,307	138	3.3
Roma	116	121	5	4.3
Southport	50	36	%	%
Stanthorpe	370	404	34	9.2
Toowoomba	1,848	1,958	110	6.0
Warwick	480	493	13	2.7
Woodridge	2,202	2,314	112	5.1
Wynnum	928	991	63	6.8
Other (a)	181	200	%	%
Total	31,655	33,262	1,607	5.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	826	877	51	6.2
Broken Hill	709	747	38	5.4
Ceduna	234	263	29	12.4
Cooper Pedy	154	153	-1	-0.6
Elizabeth	2,841	2,963	122	4.3
Enfield	1,631	1,702	71	4.4
Gawler	1,238	1,300	62	5.0
Glenelg	803	873	70	8.7
Kadina	759	757	-2	-0.3
Kilkenny	1,377	1,456	79	5.7
Marion	2,288	2,485	197	8.6
Modbury	2,009	2,149	140	7.0
Mt Barker	669	705	36	5.4
Mt Gambier	1,207	1,242	35	2.9
Murray Bridge	1,026	1,044	18	1.8
Noarlunga	2,884	3,020	136	4.7
Norwood	1,788	1,880	92	5.1
Port Adelaide	1,497	1,567	70	4.7
Port Augusta	762	811	49	6.4
Port Lincoln	577	595	18	3.1
Port Pirie	909	949	40	4.4
Salisbury	2,960	3,068	108	3.6
Torrens ville	1,570	1,669	99	6.3
Victor Harbor	719	748	29	4.0
Whyalla	794	836	42	5.3
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	32,231	33,859	1,628	5.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	1,192	1,216	24	2.0
Armadale	1,543	1,579	36	2.3
Bunbury	2,128	2,180	52	2.4
Busselton	978	1,007	29	3.0
Cannington	1,996	2,176	180	9.0
Carnarvon	250	253	3	1.2
Esperance	314	346	32	10.2
Fremantle	1,376	1,424	48	3.5
Geraldton	1,406	1,442	36	2.6
Gosnells	1,376	1,390	14	1.0
Innaloo	1,306	1,360	54	4.1
Joondalup	1,939	2,040	101	5.2
Kalgoorlie	757	815	58	7.7
Karratha	535	511	-24	-4.5
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	102	133	31	30.4
Mandurah	1,708	1,768	60	3.5
Meekatharra	175	211	36	20.6
Midland	1,764	1,806	42	2.4
Mirrabooka	2,054	2,219	165	8.0
Morley	2,128	2,248	120	5.6
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	81	100	%	%
Northam	1,122	1,147	25	2.2
Rockingham	2,192	2,278	86	3.9
South Hedland	324	417	93	28.7
Spearwood	1,302	1,353	51	3.9
Victoria Park	1,919	2,004	85	4.4
Warwick Grove	967	981	14	1.4
Other (a)	17	15	%	%
Total	32,951	34,419	1,468	4.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	1,136	1,132	-4	-0.4
Burnie	1,557	1,678	121	7.8
Devonport	1,528	1,633	105	6.9
Glenorchy	1,418	1,476	58	4.1
Hobart	1,447	1,579	132	9.1
Huonville	363	375	12	3.3
Launceston	4,100	4,264	164	4.0
Rosny Park	1,341	1,372	31	2.3
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
Total	12,890	13,509	619	4.8
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	615	647	32	5.2
Angurugu RSC	110	122	12	10.9
Borroloola	40	32	%	%
Broome	431	455	24	5.6
Casuarina	609	664	55	9.0
Central Aust RST	1,315	1,494	179	13.6
Darwin	397	391	-6	-1.5
Derby	132	136	4	3.0
Fitzroy Crossing	41	48	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	66	67	%	%
Halls Creek	161	166	5	3.1
Katherine	279	300	21	7.5
Kimberley RST	<20	55	na	na
Kununurra	218	229	11	5.0
Maningrida	255	287	32	12.5
Palmerston	775	783	8	1.0
Tennant Creek	219	246	27	12.3
Tiwi Islands	119	165	46	38.7
Top End East	316	394	78	24.7
Top End Hub	63	76	%	%
Top End South	390	448	58	14.9
Top End West	365	426	61	16.7
Wadeye	262	280	18	6.9
Yuendumu RSC	58	64	%	%
Other (a)	na	43	na	na
Total	7,290	8,018	728	10.0

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	November 2013	December 2013	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	5	12	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	18	60	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	7	-41	%	%
<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	385,236	406,703	21,467	5.6

(a) Job seekers who are not allocated to any of the reported offices.

Notes:

- Variations for Service Centres with small populations (less than 100) are displayed as % and not reported.
- Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.
- In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 20 for specific Service Centres are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".
- Area Support Office boundaries changed to Service Zones from July 2011. The July 2011 edition of this publication includes a description of the changes.

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 20 DECEMBER 2013**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	86.5	82.4	84.2
Earned an income	13.5	17.6	15.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	2.1	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.0	2.8	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.4	2.0	1.7
Over \$316.00	8.2	9.9	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	109,714	135,789	245,503
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.0	70.6	72.5
Earned an income	24.0	29.4	27.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.3	2.6	2.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.2	3.7	3.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.5	2.9	2.7
Over \$316.00	15.3	19.3	17.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	58,335	108,573	166,908
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	82.8	77.2	79.5
Earned an income	17.2	22.8	20.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.8	2.4	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.4	3.2	2.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.4	2.1
Over \$316.00	10.6	14.1	12.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	168,049	244,362	412,411

Note:
 - Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
 - There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes)

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on DSS labour market and related payments delivered by DHS. These Explanatory Notes provide details of the scope and methodology of the publication, as well as the policy changes which have affected the data since the publication was introduced in December 1995 by the then Department of Social Security.

Prior to December 1995, this publication was titled the *Monthly Job Search and Newstart Allowance Statistics*.

Scope

The primary focus of the publication is to provide information on unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance, with a particular focus on the total number of job seekers. The numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

Methodology

Data in this publication relate to the average number of people who are both eligible (eg. meet 'unemployed' qualification) and entitled (eg. meet income and assets criteria) to receive a payment calculated over a reference month. Averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.

Due to a technical fault, the November 2010 figures are based on an average of data collected on the first and last Friday of the month, while the December 2010 figures are based on an average of data collected on the last three Fridays of the month, rather than an average of each Friday in the reference month.

Table 1 provides information on the total number of unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance. The Youth Allowance population is split into Youth Allowance (full-time students), Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. Numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also provided.

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of the Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) populations and show the derivation of the respective job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the Comparability of Data section of these Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers. Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker population.

The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables in the publication. Table 8 is based on the combined population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

Payment History

Youth Allowance

The maximum age for Youth Allowance (other) was increased for new claimants from 20 to 21 years of age from 1 July 2012 and the income free area was increased to \$143.

To receive Youth Allowance young people without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

The above earn or learn arrangements were phased in, applying from 1 July 2009 to all new recipients of Youth Allowance and from 1 July 2010 for all job seekers in receipt of Youth Allowance prior to 1 July 2009.

From 1 July 1998 Youth Allowance was introduced to provide income support to young people, including students, those looking for work, and those who are sick. Youth allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. The Youth Allowance replaced:

- AUSTUDY for 16-24 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Youth Training Allowance for 16-17 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Sickness Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds); and
- More-than-minimum rate Family Payment for secondary students aged 16-18 not getting AUSTUDY.

Youth Allowance recipients are subject to the parental means test. Under previous arrangements, unemployed people aged 18 to 20 were not subject to the parental means test, unlike 18 to 20 year old students.

Special provisions applied for 18 to 20 year olds who were already on Newstart or Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance, and who remained on payment when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998. This group were able to remain on their existing payment and retain their existing benefits.

Youth Allowance had a significant downward effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from July 1998 and total job seeker numbers due to the parental means test.

Newstart Allowance

On 1 January 2013, grandfathering provisions ceased for Parenting Payment recipients who had been receiving payment prior to 1 July 2006 and had a youngest child aged 6+ years

(partnered recipients) or 8+ years (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees, as previously grandfathered Parenting Payment recipients who were eligible transferred to Newstart Allowance.

On 1 July 2012, the qualification age for Newstart Allowance was increased for new claimants from 21 to 22 years of age.

From 1 July 1998, Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance. Young people aged 18 to 20 years old who were on Newstart or Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance and when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998, were able to remain on Newstart Allowance.

From 20 October 1996, Job Search Allowance and Newstart Allowance were combined into one payment - Newstart Allowance - which was payable to eligible recipients aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see Job Search Allowance).

Prior to 20 October 1996, Newstart Allowance was payable to eligible persons over 18 years who had been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) for 12 months or more.

Job Search Allowance From 20 October 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance (see *Newstart Allowance*). All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.

Sickness Allowance From 17 March 1996, persons in receipt of Newstart Allowance or Youth Training Allowance who became temporarily incapacitated no longer transferred to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. This change had the effect of increasing total Newstart Allowance/Youth Training Allowance figures but did not affect job seeker figures as those recipients who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training job seeker populations.

Under current arrangements, these recipients remain on their existing payments but are exempt from the activity test for the duration of their medical certificates. People who become unemployed because of illness, and those who suffer a potential loss of income due to sickness, are paid Newstart Allowance because they are unemployed.

Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance, which was introduced on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Partner Allowance From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

From 1 July 1995 Partner Allowance has only been granted to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Other dependent partners have to qualify for an income support payment in their own right, such as Newstart Allowance.

Partner Allowance was introduced in October 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

Youth Training Allowance

Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Widow Allowance

From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

Widow Allowance, introduced on 1 January 1995, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years (50 prior to 20 March 1997), if they meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status and recent work experience.

Mature Age Allowance

From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. The payment ceased by October 2008 .

Mature Age Allowance was introduced on 24 March 1994, and was paid to long-term unemployed persons aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who had been receiving income support for 9 months or more and who were eligible for Newstart Allowance. The introduction of Mature Age Allowance had a downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from April 1994 until October 2003.

Comparability of Data

There have been significant changes to the data presented in this publication due to a number of events. The main changes are:

- the method of counting recipients;
- the inclusion of some CDEP recipients in the total recipient numbers;
- the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998;
- the way 'job seeker' is defined;
- the way duration is calculated; and
- the eligibility for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) from July 2012.
- the cessation of grandfathered Parenting Payment provisions, which saw an increase in the number of Newstart recipients in January 2013.

People using this data to construct time series should note the following comments.

Definition of Recipients

From July 2002, the number of people receiving labour market and related payments reports recipients who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment. These recipients are otherwise known as 'current' recipients.

Revised historical data (using this methodology) from May 1998 to June 2002 is in the July 2002 publication.

Due to improved data sources, data from July 2003 has slight differences from the recipient numbers used in previous editions.

Before July 2002, all recipients who received a payment within a given fortnight were counted. From mid 1998, recipients who received a 'one-off' payment were excluded. One-off payments can occur, for instance, when a normal payment is interrupted (eg. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in CDEP started receiving CDEP participant supplement and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new recipients to those eligible for payments reported in this publication.

Introduction of Youth Allowance The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998, other than the inclusion of Sickness Allowees in the Youth Allowance (other) population.

There is greater comparability between total Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance job seekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) job seekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the job seeker total.

A pre and post July 1998 comparison will reflect the exclusion of some 18 to 20 year old unemployed people due to the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test (see the *Youth Allowance* section under Payment History).

Job seekers From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report.

Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity and not as job seekers. Other people who were receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements were classified as job seekers although they may not always have been undertaking job search.

From July 1998, the definition of job seekers excludes all people who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner's income, or where applicable, parental income, and those known not to be required to search for work.

Before July 1998, job seekers excluded allowees who did not receive a payment, allowees who were incapacitated, and allowees who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to search for work were classified as job seekers, including people undertaking full-time voluntary work, people

on jury duty and pregnant women around the time of the birth of their child.

Duration

Since May 1998, duration has been defined according to the time a recipient spends on income support - short-term recipients are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term recipients are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a recipient was registered as unemployed - short-term recipients were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term recipients were people who were registered for 12 months or more.

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

Activity test status	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
Age	Age in years at time of data collection.
Area Support Office	The term Area Support Office was replaced by Service Zone in July 2011.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	The CDEP program is administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aims to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there are two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assist Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focuses on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.
CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)	The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.
Customer Service Centre	Customer Service Centre was replaced by the term Service Centre in July 2011.
Did not receive a payment	Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero paid'.
Fortnightly earnings	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
Incapacitated	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.
Job seeker	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
Long-term recipients	Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Newstart Allowance (NSA)	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 22 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Partner Allowance (PA)	From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

	<p>Partner Allowance was for dependent partners of pensioners and allowees. Partners had to be born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Partner Allowance had no job search requirement. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Service Centre	<p>A Service Centre that provides DSS and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones.</p>
Service Zone	<p>A set of Service Centres, grouped together for operational purposes on a geographic basis. Service Zones replaced Areas and Area Support Offices in July 2011.</p>
Short-term recipients	<p>Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.</p>
Widow Allowance (WA)	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.</p> <p>Widow Allowance, a non-activity tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Youth Training Allowance (YTA)	<p>From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Youth Allowance (YA)	<p>Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 21 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p> <p>Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.</p> <p>To receive Youth Allowance young people under 22 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participate in education and training full-time; or • participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.
Youth Allowance (other)	<p>Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.</p>
Zero paid	<p>See 'Did not receive a payment'.</p>

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN DSS UNEMPLOYMENT LABOUR MARKET PAYMENT NUMBERS AND ABS LABOUR FORCE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Official statistics	Official unemployment statistics are released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS uses definitions recommended by the International Labour Organization which have been accepted internationally as the most appropriate for the compilation of official statistics of unemployment.
ABS definition	The ABS unemployment statistics measure the number of persons who, for a particular reference period, did not undertake any paid work, were actively looking for work and were available to start work.
DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics	The labour market payment statistics give the number of persons who are both eligible and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other). The criteria for receipt of these payments do not match those the ABS uses to determine whether a person is classed as unemployed or employed for statistical purposes.
Differences	Care should be taken when comparing the ABS labour force and DSS labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DSS and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DSS measures duration of income support. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time unemployed using their unemployment definition.</p> <p>DSS unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment and still be classified as long-term income support recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.• Long-term recipients can have 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

For the ABS statistics, any hours of work for a period as short as two weeks count as a break from unemployment and so are enough to reset a person's unemployment duration.

The difference between these two concepts, together with the fact that DSS recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DSS as long-term recipients when they would be classified as short-term unemployed under the ABS definition.

Seasonal adjustment

The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The DSS labour market payment numbers data are not seasonally adjusted.

Classification

The ABS classifies a person as unemployed if he or she is aged 15 years and over, was not employed during the week before the interview, has actively looked for full-time or part-time work and is available to start work. From February 2004, people who had not actively looked for work because they were waiting to start a job within four weeks are also classified as unemployed.

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment between the ages of 15 years and 64 years in the case of men and 15 to 63 years in the case of women.

Employment

Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients may be employed part-time, but within an income test limit; the ABS classifies a person as "employed" if, among other things, he or she has worked for one hour or more during the survey period.

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

- DSS reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.
- ABS numbers are based on a sample survey which interviews occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.33% of the total Australian population. These persons are generally interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of each month and the information obtained relates to the week before the interview takes place.

Treatment of partners

The ABS series includes unemployed persons whose spouse is working, irrespective of income, whereas Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients are subject to an income and assets test for themselves and their spouse.

Pensioners

The ABS series includes persons being paid a pension but looking for work (eg. sole parents in receipt of Parenting Payments looking for work).

<i>Non job seekers</i>	The overall Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series includes persons who are not required to undertake jobsearch. These persons are separately identified in Tables 2 and 3, and have then been excluded in subsequent tables. These people may be undertaking training, the development of self-employment opportunities, full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work which excludes them from jobsearch obligations. They may also be incapacitated or have another temporary exemption from jobsearch.
<i>Waiting periods</i>	The ABS series includes persons who are serving a waiting period before being granted Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other), or whose allowance was deferred.
<i>Survey</i>	The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the DSS statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour market information

Other statistics on recipients of labour market related payments are available on request.

In addition to Newstart and Youth Allowances, statistics are also available on Partner Allowance, Parenting Payment, Sickness Allowance, ABSTUDY and Widow Allowance.

For enquiries email:
IncomeSupportInformation@deewr.gov.au

Written correspondence concerning this publication or statistics on labour market related payments should be addressed to:

Director
Income Support Information
Income Support Policy and Information Branch
Income Support Group
Department of Social Services
PO Box 9880
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

Other recipient information

The Department of Social Services publishes the “Income Support Customers: a Statistical Overview” on an annual basis and also collates statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers.